

THE BRANSTAD-REYNOLDS 4-POINT COMMITMENT TO IOWA CAREERS PLAN OF ACTION

A focused initiative designed to help create the jobs we need today and the careers we need for tomorrow.

Reduce Commercial Property Taxes

Commercial property taxes in Iowa are the 2nd highest in the nation. These taxes must be reduced—not because they cost businesses money, but because they cost Iowans, jobs.

Passing our plan will give Iowa business owners permanent relief and a fighting chance to compete for new jobs worldwide. In addition, our plan prevents a shift to other classes of property by limiting local government spending and by cutting in half the annual growth limit for residential and agricultural property.

High Quality Jobs Program

We propose a \$25 million annual investment in the existing High Quality Jobs Program to replace the Grow Iowa Values Fund. The High Quality Jobs Program has a proven track record of success and a documented return on investment of two dollars in new tax revenue for every one dollar invested. Adding this direct assistance component will give the Iowa Partnership for Economic Progress an important tool in attracting high-quality businesses and careers to Iowa.

Supply Chain Development

We have major anchor manufacturers like John Deere in Waterloo. Let's develop a supply chain cluster where surrounding towns attract those smaller support businesses that feed John Deere. Without question, the jobs such suppliers will provide in surrounding communities, like Parkersburg and La Porte City, are equally as important as the jobs John Deere provides to the citizens of Waterloo. Manufacturing must remain an important part of our diversified Iowa economy. So, legislation that removes the barriers that discourage suppliers from bringing their businesses close to their best Iowa customers will be offered this session.

Retaining Iowa's Businesses and Careers

We must work to keep Iowa companies in Iowa, even when an ownership change takes place. This is not just a tool for Iowa businesses; it is a tool for Iowa communities - Iowa communities where these companies represent so much more than jobs; where these companies represent our families, friends and way of life. Legislation will be proposed to encourage the formation of Employee Stock Option Plans to encourage the sale of these local businesses to the very employees who have made that company a profitable success.



For more information, please visit www.Governor.Iowa.Gov

THE BRANSTAD-REYNOLDS EDUCATION REFORM PLAN OF ACTION

A plan to again provide Iowa's children with a world-class education.

- Be **more selective** about who can become an educator by requiring a 3.0 grade-point average to gain admission into teacher preparation programs. Candidates for teaching licensure must pass a test demonstrating content-specific and teaching knowledge. We must widen the pathways to alternative teacher licensure with a number of quality assurance checks
- Evaluate teachers annually instead of every three years, which is the current requirement. Principals and superintendents also would be evaluated each year.
- Make **seniority** a minor factor in deciding which teachers are laid off by a school district faced with reducing the workforce. **Annual evaluations** based on performance should be the main factor.
- Establish state **task forces** to study important long-term issues, such as teacher leadership, compensation and questions about extending the school day or school year.
- Give all preschool students and enrolled 4-year-olds a kindergarten **readiness assessment** to determine early literacy and numeracy skills.
- High school students will take end-of-course exams in core academic areas of algebra, English, science and U.S. history to make sure they have a solid foundation before they graduate and to better align high school courses to the Iowa Core.
- Eliminate requirements around seat time for academic credit to accommodate school districts that choose to adopt a system of competency-based education, which advances students based on their mastery of subjects.
- Widen the pathway for starting **charter schools** by giving the State Board of Education authority to approve charter applications from universities, community colleges and nonprofit organizations, as well as collaborative efforts of all these groups. Iowa's current charter school law is restrictive in that it only allows existing school districts to establish charter schools.
- Give school districts **greater flexibility** to meet state requirements so that public schools can better apply innovative ideas to improve learning. School districts would have the same flexibility that charter schools have.



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